GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1962
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
SMUGGLING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons against whom cases have been registered on the charges of smuggling of foreign currency into India and the number of arrests made in this regard during the last three years till date;

(b) whether the Government have failed to file enquiry report in the court even after sixty days against persons arrested on the charge of smuggling of foreign currency; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of foreign currency and to ensure early action against the accused persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): 3240 cases of smuggling (both inward and outward) of foreign exchange were detected during the last three years (upto February 2002). 161 persons were arrested in this regard.

(b): No Sir. Enquiry report was filed against 132 persons during this period before the jurisdictional Court. Enquiry Report could not be filed in respect of 23 arrested persons even after sixty days mainly due to non-completion of adjudication proceedings.

(c) All the field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to check the smuggling of contraband goods including foreign currency. Early action is taken against the guilty persons by way of imposition of penalties through departmental adjudication, and also launching of prosecution in deserving cases.